

**CAPITOL/DOWNTOWN  
CENTRAL CORRIDOR TASK FORCE  
OCTOBER 26, 2006**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Task Force**

**Members Present:** Susan Rani, Mike Burns, Kristina Smitten, Craig Lien, Michael Noble, Jose Gonzalez, Larry Englund, Kim Hyers

**Task Force**

**Members Absent:** John Bennett, David Lanegran, Ta-coumba Aiken, Rhys Ledger, Paul Mohrbacher, Jerry Hersman, Pat Lamb, Phil Mason, Deborah Rathman, Steve Schmidt, Diane Thormodsgard

**Guests Present:** Mark Voerding, Karen Lyons, Jim Barton, Tim Griffin, George Johnson, Monique MacKenzie, Roger Skare, Bryan Bowen, Craig Lametti, Melanie Hare, George Dark

**Staff Present:** Jess Rosenfeld, Lucy Thompson, Al Lovejoy, Donna Drummond

**Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chair Kristina Smitten welcomed task force members, who introduced themselves. Guests were also introduced.

**Review of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as written.

**Presentation and Discussion of Draft Vision, Principles, Objectives and Strategies**

Melanie Hare and George Dark of Urban Strategies, Inc. presented a draft vision, principles and strategies for the downtown/Capitol segment of the Corridor, based on extensive community and task force input over the past two months, including the September 16, 2006 Public Open House. This information will also be presented at the October 28, 2006 Public Open House. Melanie explained that refinements and additions will continue to be made over the next two months. Lucy Thompson handed out a copy of the project schedule, showing that more detailed work on the downtown/Capitol segment will be done from November 2006-February 2007.

Task force comments on the Vision and Principles included:

- Connections between the riverfront and LRT are important in repositioning Saint Paul in the region.
- Educational institutions have excellent links to the arts and culture communities, and can also help reposition the city.
- LRT presents a major opportunity to “perk up” retail and really make downtown a “place.”
- Downtown is not reflected strongly enough in the Vision or Principles. It was agreed that downtown should be embedded more in the existing set of principles, rather than having its own principle.
- How do the current bus stations at 6<sup>th</sup>/Cedar and 5<sup>th</sup>/Minnesota figure in the larger transit system?

- How does LRT impact charter schools and the number of kids downtown? Better transportation may bring a lot of kids downtown, but what do they do once they get there?
- What is the impact on downtown traffic movement/congestion?
- Perhaps LRT is an opportunity to “undo” some mistakes in downtown – e.g. the closing off of 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Task force comments on the Strategies included:

- Redevelopment of the Sears site is an excellent opportunity to connect to Western Sculpture Park and extend the fabric of that part of the neighborhood.
- Housing options should be diverse.
- We need to capture the full range of multi-modal opportunities in downtown.
- How will the strategies be funded?

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. in the 13<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room in City Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Thompson  
Senior Planner  
November 6, 2006